The Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY • FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2018 • VOLUME LVII NO. 27 • SINCE 1965

The Path to Success

Collin Moran
Sports Editor

Graduating senior Cassidy Whitaker will be the commencement speaker at this year's undergraduate class graduation. Cassidy is a political science major with a minor in journalism, she has also been heavily involved around campus during her tenure here at Saint Leo. Some of her involvement around campus includes Editor in Chief of the Lions' Pride Newspaper, Vice President of Pi Sigma Alpha: National Political Science Honor Society and a member of Alpha Sigma Tau National Sorority and has had the opportunity to pursue many internsiph and fellowship opportunities with organizations outside of campus, helping her prepare for a promising career.

Photo Provided by Cassidy Whitaker

Cassidy Whitaker has been an integral part of the Saint Leo Community, she is the Editor in Chief of the Lions' Pride Newspaper along with holding several other offices.

Q. What does the speech mean to you, what has prepared you to get to this point, what can you reflect on that helped you write the speech?

What has helped prepare me is the years and years of writing experience that I have. I love writing so much, it has always been one of my passions since I was a kid. That passion really came out in high school. I had never written a speech so it was actually a new challenge to write something so different. Speeches are so symbolic, it is like storytelling. It was cool to challenge myself in a new way like that and to try something different and experimental. Definitely what had prepared me is the years of practice I've had with writing. I can't even put into words what it means to me that my senior classmates voted me in for this. I went to last year's commencement that Ammar was the speaker at, and he's a great friend of mine, so watching him stand up there, representing not only his senior class but his school, and seeing him tell his personal story, and getting the chance to share all of these inspiring words with his classmates, because we are on the brink of their adult and professional lives, so cool. As much as I love Saint Leo you can't even imagine the honor it is to get to do the speech.

Continued on Page 3

Pressing Forward with Pride

John Hall
Layout Editor

The adage says, "Lightning does not hit the same place twice," however, for one Saint Leo student, his lightning came in the form of two graduations. Niclas Bez, an international student and Graduate Commencement Speaker attained his bachelor's degree in sports business last year and this year is graduating with his master's degree in business. As a former member of The Lions' Pride Newspaper, Bez was happy to sit down and reflect with the newspaper and talk about his commencement speech.

Photo by @SaintLeoLions

Graduate and International Student from Bonn, Germany Niclas Bez was a member of the Track Team as well as one of the best Sports writers for The Lions' Pride Newspaper during his tenure at Saint Leo. Bez serves as the Graduate studies commencement speaker this April.

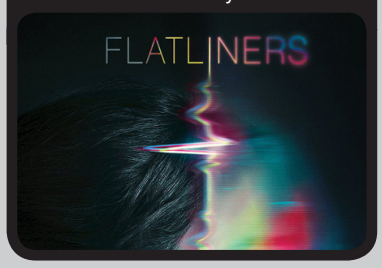
Q. What made you want to be the graduate commencement speaker?

The selection for the graduate commencement speaker is different from the undergraduate

Continued on Page 3

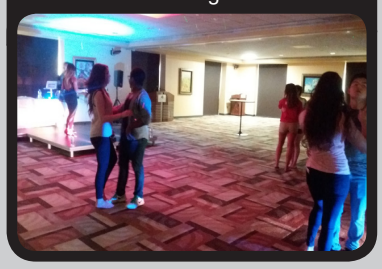
Online This Week

Are There too Many Remakes?

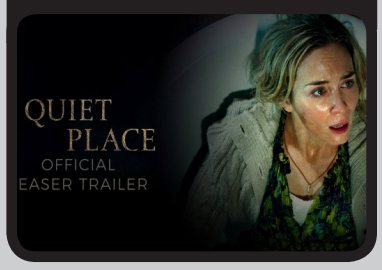


Softball's 4th 30 Consecutive Wins

Latin Heritage Week



A Quiet Place Movie Review



Online This Week: Ready Player One Video Movie Review

Follow, Like, Comment and Share

YouTube
thelionspridenewsaper

lionspridenews

@LionsPrideNews

facebook.com/lionspride-newspaper

Editoral

What I Wish I Knew When I Graduated

Nicole Alvarez
Special To the Lions' Pride

During the final months of my last semester, I thought I had everything planned out. I knew what I was going to get a career in. I knew the companies hiring for my dream jobs. But most importantly, I whole-heartily believed that the job market wouldn't be too bad.

How I wish I could go back to 2017 and smack some sense into myself. Unfortunately, I don't have a time machine, but I do have a friend who can tell me all the problems with time travel.

Which brings me to my first point. Be prepared to say goodbye to most of the friends you made while in college.

At the very least, know that hanging out and face-to-face interaction will become severely limited; especially, if you and your friends live in different states entirely.

I have friends that live only 30 minutes away from me and I barely ever see them. Except, that's mostly because we're all working terrible part-time hours or exhausting full-time jobs.

Speaking of jobs and segueing into talking about the job market, have prospective interviews lined up before you graduate.

I made the silly mistake of not job hunting as extensively as I should have. I also made the mistake of deciding on a career with little to no job opportunities in the area where I live.

Now, I'm working as a freelance content writer, which basically translates as writing articles from the comfort of my home. Sounds nice, right? No.

Unless you're an expert in your field, freelance opportunities won't pay a lot, and you'll be living from project to project. Entry-level freelance jobs aren't always work-at-home types either. I just got lucky after, oh, six months of looking for anything and everything related to writing or editing while working a data-entry job.

You'll probably have to go through several interviews before you find the job that you're willing to do for the salary you can work with.

Of course, the reason why I'm working freelance from home is because of an unexpected family obligation.

I love my family, but when I had finally worked up the nerve to consider moving for better job opportunities, I was called upon to stay to help take care of a family member in need of major surgery and therapy.

In other words, moving was no longer an option for me.

The moral of this particular story is – don't waste time on hemming and hawing your way through life. If you know something needs to be done, then do it. And if it involves moving across the country, then start packing. Doors will close if you take too long.

On the bright side, some doors don't stay closed forever.

Photo Provided by Nicole Alvarez Facebook

Pictured from Left to Right: Former Layout Editor Nicole Alvarez, Former Managing Editor Nicholas Santos and Staff Writer Stephen Skipper. Like most graduates, staff of the Lions' Pride Newspaper are always able to reflect on their growth throughout their college careers at Saint Leo.

Nicholas Santos
Special To the Lions' Pride

While I was a member of the graduating class of 2017 – all of whom graduated ceremonially in April of that year – I had finished my degree requirements one semester early in December of 2016. Finishing early seemed like a prestigious achievement that wasn't meant for me; honestly, it happened on its own, with the challenges of my outer and inner worlds occupying me as college went on and as I grew as an individual.

As the end of the fall 2016 semester approached, the prospects of graduation began to hit me. The idea of being able to see my family regularly again—my family, which I had, for the past three years, been able to see only during the occasional long weekend or break—made me very happy. Outside of that, however, I knew that I would have been (and already was) devastated by what I was required to leave behind: the friends, mentors and family I had developed at Saint Leo, my home away from home. I had left close people behind twice before in my life; when I moved to Florida from New York in 2005, I left behind countless family members and my best friend, and when I graduated from high school in 2013, I left behind even more friends. As such, I thought I would be used to it again. Unfortunately, however, that wasn't the case, and I found that the months leading up to my graduation were some of the toughest I'd ever had to endure following my undergraduate career. The one thing I wish I knew when I graduated? I wish I knew how painful leaving everyone—everything—from Saint Leo so early was truly going to be.

Moving on and growing up are parts of life—that was something I taught myself to accept after moving to Florida. Yet, moving away from Saint Leo, a place I learned to call my own, offered many challenges I wasn't yet ready to face. From searching for a job, to applying to grad school and finally to dealing with losing the sense of purpose I had once had so recently, everything had, over time, manifested into an eventual realization: adulthood was on its way, and fast. I had to learn to look upon myself to find purpose and happiness – to this day; this is still something I am fighting for. Although I am grateful for such an experience, I can't help but wonder: perhaps knowing beforehand would have made the battle that much easier.

Campus News

Path to Success cont'd

Continued from Page 1

To get to do something like this is truly going to be one of the greatest honors of my life thus far. I love being in leadership roles, helping people out, getting up in front of people and talking even if they don't want to hear me. I love that, however, I haven't spoken in front of this many people. I am certainly very nervous but I think the nerves will set in more as it gets closer because as of now I am overwhelmed with school work so I am pretty distracted. But once that's over I'm going to be a lot more nervous, but more than anything I am excited.

Q. What has your experience been like working for the Lions' Pride, did you experience any growth?

My four years here with TLP have been amazing; it has been very challenging. The paper was the first thing I got involved with here on campus in August of 2014 and here we are in April of 2018, so I have been here for a very long time. I've always considered our job more of an academic position, it's very time consuming, very tedious, you have to be willing to be challenged. You have to put yourself out there. This job in terms of growth, I've certainly learned a lot, just in terms of how shy I am. I don't consider myself to be shy anymore but when you conduct an interview talking to someone that you've never talked to before while covering a story that you have no idea about, you are forced to observe and take decent notes. All this while talking to people you may be scared to talk to, that's very challenging but it's good because it really helps build your self confidence and it helps with your communication skills.

Q. What would you say is the strength of Saint Leo as a school from your freshman year to now?

It has to be the faculty. The faculty we have here, in particular the ones I have had a chance to work with over the years, are just incredible. It really is one of the benefits of going to a small, private school like Saint Leo. The one on one time you get with your professors is great, our experience here is so much different than any other school. I wouldn't have had that experience anywhere else. I've had the privilege of developing these really close relationships with these people, and not only do I care alot about them, but they care about me as well.

The opportunities you have here are incredible. The faculty, they are the ones who help you earn certain opportunities like internships, fellowships, special programs and even down to something as simple as doing a directed study with a professor. I had the opportunity to do my only directed study with Frank Orlando, we did it on gender and politics and it is something I am very interested in. The basis is how to get females to run for office and basically how well they perform when they run for office. You wouldn't have that experience anywhere else.

Q. What would you have done differently in your four years here?

My first and probably most important change would be to have been more involved my freshman year. My first year at Saint Leo I had a really rough time, I was not very involved. I spent more time at home than I did on campus, and I didn't make a whole lot of friends, except for my freshman roommate who was great and I'm still friends with today. Other than that, I really did not put myself out there and that is truly one of my biggest regrets at Saint Leo. I cheated myself out of an entire year, out of my four years here, and college is not a long point your life, so I lost as a freshman.

Q. What advice would you give to underclassmen to succeed and thrive during their years at Saint Leo?

I like this question but I also hate it because everyone always says the same thing, however what I'm going to say is true, you have to get involved. You can't be one of those students who just goes through the motions, goes to class and goes right back to their dorm. You have to be a part of something, that's how you make friends, accomplish things, build your resume and give back to the school. Another thing I would say is to develop relationships with your faculty. We have some of the most incredible educators here at Saint Leo; they all genuinely have so much passion and care about our students so much.

Q. Looking back on the past four years, what were some of the key moments of your college career?

There was a lot. Doing a fellowship with a program called ICUF (Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida) was huge. I was picked for this program by my advisor and political science teacher Frank Orlando, he picked myself and one other student and we completed it for our junior and senior years. It is basically an advocacy program for the FRAG (Florida Resident Access Grant). Basically we do advocacy on campus, we were tasked witha lot of assignments through both years, with letter writing aspects wrting hometown representatives including those in the Pasco delegation. Just to be able to not only represent this program, but represent Saint Leo with this was the coolest thing. To be able to not only have represented this program, but also represent Saint Leo was the coolest thing. I've done a lot over my years but my political science program has been one of the best aspects during my time here at Saint Leo. My professors, the people in my program that I've gotten a chance to work with. I love this program, it is my passion and what I want to do in the future. I'm really going to miss something just as simple as being in a classroom with these people. I couldn't have asked for a better program or a better group of people to work with.

Q. What are your plans for after school?

I am currently in the job search process. I am sending my resume out to a lot of different people, and organizations. The jobs I am applying for now are basically legislative staff positions. I think there is a lot out in front of me that I can get in on, it's just the luck of the draw, getting that one position that's going to help get your career in motion. I want to go from there. I like serving people, and I think that's what draws me to this field because contrary to popular belief, politics is about helping people, and that's why I love this field so much. A lot of my political inspirations have loved the service, loved helping people, and that's what I want to do.

Pressing Forward cont'd

Continued on Page 3

one. The faculty had to select a couple of candidates and then vote on who should become the speaker.

Q. Where did you find your inspiration for your speech?

I just want to provide value to all the students by including things that have helped me succeed during my years at Saint Leo.

Q. What plans do you have for after school?

I am looking into many different career paths in marketing, finance and also higher education. Down the road I would like to get my Ph.D. and start teaching at a university.

Q. If you had to do college again, what would you do differently?

Time is precious and we often just realized how good it was when it comes to an end. If I could do college again I would be even more involved on campus and spend more time with all the great people at Saint Leo.

Q. How was your transition at Saint Leo from undergraduate to graduate studies?

The transition from undergraduate to graduate studies was fairly simple for me. I believe that I learned good time management skills during my bachelor's degree, which helped me a lot during my master's degree.

Q. How has your position at the Lions' Pride benefited you in your journey to both undergrad and graduate graduations?

Being a staff writer for the Lions' Pride Newspaper has helped me significantly during both of my degrees. My writing skills improved and I also learned how to be time efficient when it comes to writing papers or articles. As I did less grammatical errors I could also see my grades go up as I became a better writer.

Photo by @SaintLeoLions

During his tenure at Saint Leo University, Niclas Bez was an integral part of the track team, achieving many personal bests along with awards for the school.

Campus News

Congratulations University Campus ar

Joanne Abel
Josmar Abreu
Paulina Acevedo
Stefania Aguirre
Tia Alexander
Lorrie Alfonso
Ruth Alpizar
Melanie Amyx
Jodie Anderson
Sandra Andre
Guadalupe Arredondo
Chelsea August
Diana Aurelio
Brittnee Ayers
Sulai Baddour
Katherine Baladi
Theresa Barmann
Ben Barrington
Betsy Barrows
Lisa Bevilacqua
Desiree Bittner
Sefah Boateng
Brooke Bracewell
Derek Brewer
Rick Broadnax
Brittney Brown
Coretta Brown
Dewayne Brown
Jacquelyn Brown
Farida Burenbeiya
Joseph Burgos
Brian Cabral
Kyle Cady
Amanda Cahill
Anais Camacho
Alicia Carlin
Logan Carroll
Antonio Catlin
Frank Cesario
Elizabeth Chaves
Abraham Chavez
Scott Chilko
Kevin Clark
Samantha Clark
Christopher Clayton
John Cloud
Donald Cochran
Brittany Cordero
Briana Counihan
Breanna Crabtree
Caitlin Craig
Vicinda Crawford
Angela Crippen
Tyler Croker
Antonio Cruz
Marie Curci
Jillian Davis
Alicia Dawson
Kelly Dean
Jacie Dieffenwierth
Alicia Donofrio
Ragen Dotson
Bradley Drake
Ashley Dudney
Christine Dzikonski
W Ellwood
Darlene Emanuel
Kara Ennis
Heather Errichiello
Andrea Evilsizer
Constance Fields
David Fields
William Fields
Monica Forbes
Matthew Formby
Alicia Foster
Steven Fournier
Diane Franklin
James Fredericks
Scott Fredrickson
Jonathan Galicia
Jenna Gardner
Nicole Giaritelli
Tiara Glover
Lisa Glowacke
Ashley Glynn
Monique Gonzalez
Oscar Gordillo
Gerard Gorman
Demetrius Governor
Brittani Grady
Jesse Graham
Dustin Grisham
Francis Grizzle-Malgrat
Lesley Guerrero
Alejandra Gutierrez
David Hagan
Amber Hagin
Lacey Hall
Nicardo Hamilton
Chantell Hardy
Angela Hayes
Michelle Hazelwood
Steven Henson
Lucia Hernandez
Sara Hernandez
Felicia Hewes
Chad Hewitt
Stephen Hindle
Yvette Hite
Donald Holcomb
Danielle Holliday
Barry Hosford
Ayla Hutchinson
Samantha Hutchison
Karla Iglesias
Bryan Inman
Jessica Jackson
Nephtalie Jacques
Devin Jay
Limalia JeanJacques
Staci Johnson
Tecia Johnson
Sherryl Johnson-Tandy
Erica Jones
Michael Jones
Khaldun Josey
Kyle Kennedy
Shannon Kordack
Danielle LaDue
Courtney Lape
Melanie Lawton
Danyelle Ledbetter
Keisela Lee
Abigail Leonetti
Melvin Lett
Mone't Lewis
Jennifer Litzen
Juan Luna
Dyamond Martin
Angela Martinez
Michele Mathews
Jenifer McGrew
Judith McKathan
Tiffani McKeown
Michelle Miner
Kyle Minturn
Tonya Mishoe
Jody Mitchell
Leticia Molina
James Moore
Christina Moyer
Shannon Murray
Kathy Myers
Luisa Nastari
Tresurea Nelson
Giusi Nigro
Klaudia Nika
Hannah Noble
James Noles
Shakeya Oates
Nicole Ojeda
Sage Olmo
Cynthia O'Reilly
Frank Ortiz
James Osborne
Pedro Pabon
Karen Pantoja
Jason Parker
Brandy Patellis
Katrina Pereira
Tanairi Perez
Debra Perry
Barbara Phillips
Danny Phillips
Shari Pica
Ana Polo-Horn
Destinee Power
Anthony Pressley
Antwan Prince
Mona Ramos
Sarah Ratzlaff
Emily Raymer
Courtney Ricks
Angelo Rijo
Natalie Rios
Evelyn Rivera
Reyna Rivera
Nikki Robinson
Cassandra Rollins
Gemma Rose
Matthew Rosenbloom
Kayla Ross
Nathan Ross
Brooke Samios-Uy
Ariel Sanchez
Ashlee Sandy
Heather Schaeffer
Jessica Scheibe
Takiyah Scott
Brett Seigler
Kaden Sholl
John Skaja
Heather Skipper
Celine Skovholt
Eric Slate
Cheryl Smith
Melinda Smith
Shelbie Smith
Tony Smith
Takiesha Steele-Newson
Caitlyn Stevenson
Kathleen Stone
Tonia Stoner
Marcus Stovall
Jackie Strama
Henry Stucken
Arlene Suarez
Davia Sulwikowski
Jeffrey Tate
Jennifer Taylor
Nancy Telatycki
Amanda Topper
Keshanie Torrence
Thomas Tricker
Robert Vachon
Trina Van Dusen
Hector Vazquez
Michael Vega
Sean Velazquez
Frederick Vey
David Villa-Real
Kaitlyn Wagner
James Wakefield
Angela Wallace
Meagan Watkins
Kayla Weber
Jill Weiser
Jennifer Werme
Emerson Williams
Nayirah Williams
Carly Wilson
Dawn Wilson
James Wilson
Alexander Wimmer
Christina Wisniewski
Jack Wolfe
Samantha Woodham
Susan Wyman
Michelle Zechman
Quinisha Abrahams
Bria Alexander
Sari Alharbi
Yesenia Anderson
Lisandra Armenta
Vincent Baez
Kristina Barnes
Elizabeth Diaz
Alan Doyrin
Thiery Doyrin
Rubey Edwards
Emily Espinosa
Alycia Groeger
Syldon Harding
Adrian Hazelwood
Christopher Hernandez
Christina Hewitt
Bradley Holtschneider
Julia Jordan
Christie Jules
Robert Kinard
Matthew Malacos
Ebony McCloud
Kevin Penaranda
Dragoljub Popovic
John Potts
Amanda Rowe
Christopher Scott
Heather Stamp
Denise Thoey
Julieta Vergara
Michelle Arias
Michael Barnard
Gilbert D'Amore
Peyton Farrier
Tara Fox
Faith Healy
Nikira Hooks
Megan Howell
Ryan Jordan
Charis Lavoie
Brittany Marzolf
Delanda McCrary-Howard
Cecelia Metz
John Morgan
Lendanette Pastrana Rivera
Sierra Pennington
Janine Pesi
Laura Ramirez
Kiara Randall

Campus News

nd Adult Education Center Graduates!

Bailey Reed
Rita Sapp
Kimberly Schmidt
David Shaw
Tina Vargas
Rhiannon Venturella
Regina Vieux
Jennifer Watts
Kendra Weldon
Alisa Williams
Alicia Dawson
Robert Rogers
Aubrey Rogers
Erik Tandy
Logan Featherstone
Maria Tharp
Reginald Chatmon
Michael Gordon
Melissa Evans
Marina Carcaba
Austin Abbott
Rashid Alshahwani
Abdullah Alsulaiti
Larry Altman
Francisco Aparicio
Margine Arguello Huete
Paloma Bacellar Da Silva
Michael Barry
Tyler Bauman
Nadiah Beckles
Charlene Bharucha
Brooke Bonsted
Alejandro Brache
Naomi Bradshaw
Tanner Brandner
Tyreece Brice
Blake Bromen
Stephen Brown
Shyla Bryant
Jaime Bueno
Jacob Bye
Joseph Carlino
Kathryn Casey
Alexas Casillas
Jonathan Chan Jon Chu
Megan Charlton
Spencer Clavien
Mikael Coleman
Robert Cook
Eric Cox
Gryer Cox
Ryan Craythorne
Marcus Crowe
Lauren Csubak
Jason D'Aoust
Joseph Defazio
James Defusto
Anthony DeLeva
Michael Dingwall
Amber Dunlap
Krystyna Elsner
Jordan Filion
Amber Fink
Hunter Fornarotto
Davina Foster
Garrett French
Joseph Fuller
Randall Gains
Savan Gajera
Diego Garcia
Natalia Garriock
Amber Gilkes
Jake Gilmour
Max Glaser
Aashutosh Godambe
Chad Gonzalez
Andrada Gordan
Riley Goss
Savannah Gotling
Andrew Grant
April Green
Kari Grippo
Thomas Grochowski
Danielle Hall
Jeffrey Heim
Erin Helms
Marcel Hernandez Sandova
Kristiana Hinsch
Micah Hitchcock
Blaire Huggins
Amanda Jakobsson
Britton Janning
Derek Jodrey
Kevin Kellaher
Jason Kendricks
Ryan Kolesnikov
Grace Lederer
Hana Lee
Andrew Lifka
Patrick Lustro
Zachary Lysyk
Allie Maguire
Kayla McGuire
Martin McInnis
Conor McKew
Tori McQuade
Alyssa Mercadante
Bakari Miller
Delaney Murphy
Nicholas Myers
Grant Newell
Maria Nunez
Sarah Nunez
Keisuke Ohata
Grace Olsen
Maxwell Olson
Jessica Orince
Destiny Osuji
Marcelo Parker-Hernandez
Kyle Pauwels
Jordan Pendleton
Joseph Perez
Lindsey Perkins
Jonathan Perry
Cassandra Phelps
Cassidy Place
Madison Powell
Bruce Preeschl
Quincy Pringle
Aaliyah Ramirez
Sulema Ramirez
Mary Redmond
Joseph Reilly
Michael Rivan
Josephine Rodgers
Christian Rodriguez
Mark Rodriguez
Roger Rojas
Abigail Ross
Ranee Roszkowicz
Haley Roussell
Is'ra Miraja Saadat
Jean Sajous
Ilouisa Salazar
Kaila Sanders
Matthew Scharr
Zachary Scott
Britt Sederholm
Matthew Sheputis
Patricia Sheridan
Jonathan Shoemaker
Elijah Silas
Hannah Smith
Lane Stancil
Sherard Stevens
Savannah Tarrant
Thomas Tatarian
Mayelin Taveras
Garrett Taylor
Jaclyn Taylor
Cleveland Thomas
Joseph Thompson
Sabria Thompson
Andrew Thriffiley
Robert Tirbene
Chase Turner
Colby Tyler
Taylor Underwood
Jan Urbaniak
Ruby Uzzell
Jose Van Olphen
Stephanie Vera
Ivanna Villalba
Nicholas Villani
Anthony Visintin
Melinda Vitale
Collin Walker
Nicole Weber
James White
Norman Widamen
Corey Wilbur
Bryce Wilson
Terence Wolter
Nicholas Argitis
Hunter Bains
Charity Barker
Matthew Beebe
Shyra Bryant
Linda Campos
Joseph Carney
Marilyn Ceja
Alexis Clayton
Christine Cocheo
Timecia Cohen
Shelby Coniglio
Savannah Cook
Rebecca Crowley
Matthew Daley
Mallory Delay
Casey Fagan
Justin Fairfield
Kelsey Fileccia
Rachel Frantz
Elyse Garcia
Derek Gibree
Andre Gilbert
Cristine Gonzalez
Thomas Guilfoyle
Heather Hauck
Alexander Hauryluck
Jeremy Hiles
William Hoffman
Victoria Hunt
Kristina Kieffer
Conner Knaresboro
Adeika Looby
Vallinique Martin
Alexus Martinez
Isabelle Martini
Shea McAuley
Thomas McCarthy
Sabrina McIntyre
Brigid McLaughlin
Amal Muhammad
Alysa Nantarojanaporn
Alexander Noonan
Alyssa Patches
Alexis Peterson
Andrew Rashaad
Caleb Richard
Estefania Rivera Rodriguez
Michael Rodrigues
Charity Roldan
Kelli Samuels
Kaylynn Scott
Lyzandra Serrano
Joseph Serrecchia
Sherri Smith
Emma Stansfield
Cayla Starlin
Kellen Strader
Reid Thomas
Taylor Thomas
Anthony Valentino
Megan Vila
Mackenzie Wallace
Zamara Williams
Jon Witkowski
Rosie Young
Samantha Acacio
Madison Adkins
Mohamad Almasri
Daniela Alonso
Fahad Al-Remithi
Robert Amarillas
Niat Andu
Diane Barnard
Marine Beugre-Guyot
Olga Britton
Hilbrand Buurma
Meghan Casey
Dahlia Cash
Brian Cerosky
Jan Dahrendorff
Zachary Day
Keronhica Desir
Vilde Eriksen
Giulia Feigenbaum
Milynthia Foard
Mohamed Galal
Corey Gallen
Matthew Gargiulo
Ian Snyder
Ileana Soto
Alexis Sullivan
Celina Tahsini
Dylan Taylor
Brittany Tercero
Madison Toney
Rebecca Trabing
Amanda Twigg
Samantha Tyler
Marie Umholtz
Kristen Upp
Collin Valenti
Carylyn Waite
Jasmine Warren
Taylor Wells
Cassidy Whitaker
Jeffery Wilson
Daniela Yarrington
Jeffrey Yglesias
Jeffrey Almeida
Taryn Kinnett
Amanda Miceli
Isabella Robbiani
Hans Mueller
Mitchell Wilson
Derrick Wade
Taylor Lochte

Campus News

University Campus and Adult Education cont.

Tiffany Gargiulo
Keanu Gerald
Miles Glaser
Justine Gonzalez
Maria Gonzalez
Gloria Guisbert Aramayo
Hamed Habadi
Selena Hammie
Marisa Hasara
Jeffrey Hawes
Deidre Henry
Analie Herbert
Shantanna Higgs
Katherine Holzapfel
Chigozie Igbonagwam
Chidozie Igbonagwam
Michael Jimenez
Adam Kilburg
Emily Kochanski
Sabrina Kurtz
Auston Larratta
Katherine Larson
Alyssa Lehman
Joseph Licari
Ethan Lichtenberg
Myia Lynn
Victoria Markou
Lois Martinez
Heather Mason
Jack McGee
Bailey McKenna
Kathleen Meehan
Natalie Melillo
Martha Montes
Michael Mooney
Kayla Moulds
Sergio Napoletano
Gregory Nobles
Genesiz Paredes
Savannah Parrow
Victoria Peacock
Misean Peart
Sommer Pollard
Matthew Redmon
Marina Riad
Mary Richter
Jonah Robertson
Jared Roy
Mark Saunders
Aisha Schenk
Michael Schrock
Kendra Simpson

Congratulations Gradu

Stephen Kubasek
George Simonof
Onyeka Abadom
Frank Abdel
Tiva Absher
Stephen Absher
Henry Osafo Adu
Courtney Ahearn
Omowumi Alabi
Paige Allen-Blythe
Loreto Alonso Martinez
Johanna Amigo
Sumira Anderson
Melisa Anderson
John Anderson
Charles Anderson
Anthony Anzalone
Axel Bacares
Sonja Baker
Fatoumata Balde
Kenesha Barnes
Monica Barysh
Ryan Bastow
Franck Bayebanen
Aaron Behrendt
Angela Belair
Monika Bell
Regina Belvin
Xhenis Berberi
Sophia Berrios
Niclas Bez
Jessica Birchmeier
Ronteryl Black
Davina Blaile
Vance Bode
April Bombka
Bradley Borsuk
Sai Sireesha Boyapati
Hope Boyce
Ariel Britt
William Burnap
Velma Butler
Gordon Carter
John Castro
Nathaly Cespedes Gomez
Holly Chance
Carl Clark
Daphne Clayton
John Clements
Desiree Clermont
Michael Cogar
Susan Cogar-Daniels
Jullianne Cole
Spencer Colquitt
Frank Coniglio
Yolanda Cook-Killings
Autumn Corbett
Amanda Cosme
Logan Cottingham
Amanda Couch
Eryn Craig
Vernise Crawford
Marjorie Creagh
Calvin Cribbs
James Crosby
Ettore Damiani
Brittany Dansereau
Jose De Jesus
Adam Deppe
Kathleen Dietz
Lakisha Dixson
Emmanuel Diyokamulowayi
Marie Doyrin
Nycole Elliott
Meghan Ellis
Elaine Ellis Morrison
James Eodice
Jeffry Ewing
Zalika Flower
Anthony Fontanet
Andres Fournier
Pamela Frazer
Christopher Garry
Carissa Garza
Lorenzo Gibbs
Christine Godlewski
Leonardo Gonzalez
Breanna Green
Tinisha Griffin
William Griswold
Jeff Grove
Virginia Guevarra
April Gutierrez
Marla Haile-Bevel
Jessica Hales
Christine Hanson
Dominique Hayes
Dominique Jerene Haynes
Stephen Henry
Prasad Herath
Hayley Hillenbrand
Edward Houston
Marla Howard
Andrew Introne
Vernice Jackson
Inga Janota
Ashley Johnson
Roselette Joseph
Malanie Joseph Gilkes
Naima Kabir
Michael Kaman
Catherine Kohrt
Christopher Kruse
Zrng Kurdi
Ashley Kyle
Tamara Lasser
Jean Lebrun
Demia Lee
Brittany Levine
Justin Lewis
Lizabeth London
Kenndrick Luckett-Epps
Lynne Lyons
Lakiesha Mackey
Kevin Mangal
Roslyn Manley
Michael Marino
Caleb Marler
Susan Martin
Meghan Mathias
Lamberto Mathurin
Brittany McAlister
Brooke McDowell
Melissa McIntosh
Stella McKinley-Pate
Lorene Mervis
Jennifer Meyer
Milosz Mikicin
Christy Miller
Tyrese Milner
Chelsea Miner
Stephanie Miranda Torres
Lee-Serey Morales
Xavier Moreno
Sophia Murry
Darlene Newton
Lam Nguyen
Phillip Nicholson
Michelle Nicol
Shawn Pabon
Bradley Palmer
Rachel Palompo
Jamila Patterson
Perline Paul
Nicholas Pedro
Dung Phan
Jessica Pigeon
Ann Pilling
Johnathan Plummer
Julie Price
Leroy Purifoy III
Gabriele Pusateri
Julien Quere
Lisa Quinn
Advija Rabchenia
Desiree Ramos
Colett Rampf
Ann Rast
Jessica Reichwein
Matthew Rexford
George Reynolds
Rachel Rhodes
Sandra Rhymes
Nikko Richardson
Consuelo Rodriguez
Marcus Rodriguez
Adriana Ron
Anne Saroka
Tamera Saunders
Corey Saunders
Ahmed Sawan
Connor Schaefer
Richard Scoppa
Colette Scott
Laura Shortway
Galena Sistrunk
Kathryn Smalls
Zachary Smith
Justin Smith
Brad Spain
Christopher Spall
Joseph Stafford
Deon Stein
Eric Stephenson
Tonya Thompson
Michele Thwaites
Adedunni Tinubu
Maria Tirado Garin
Gerald Torre
Herbert Utile
Jasmin Vargas
Alphonsius Verberne
Shannon Walker
Marquise Warren
Michael Washington
Amanda Waterbury
Lindsey Watson
Brooke Watts
Pete Webster
Jamie Wichmanowski
Tamaria Williams
Asha Wilson
Marcus Wong
Tina Worley
Sarah Young
Anitarece Young
Annie Bennett
Tashia Watford
Anna Chipi
Ahmed Almoailu
Divya Aradhya
Tracey Brand
Christopher Gould
Andrea Greene

Campus News

uate Program Graduates!

Joshua Kaufling
Marlene Kovacic
Shane Metzler
Jordan Miller
Jeffrey Nauta
Lemuel Nicholls
Valerie Osude
Lavon Perry
Jose Velez
Reena Wright
Asante Augustus
Marjorie Etienne
Henry Franco
Lee Herbst
Mark Laera
Diep Nguyen
Kaycee Rupe
Christina Stephens
Joel Zavala
Jamee Townsend
Jaclyn Bell
Shilah Blakeney
James Johnson
Tamara Jones
Nicole Joseph
Michelle Kinna
Maurice Macklin
Jerard Vonador
Kimbra Wiegert
Bonnieliza Amador
Herbert Freeman
Brent Graves
Rachel Irizarry
Mary Koehler
Jennifer Morton
Todd Parke
Shelby Russell
Bobbievette Shead
Jessica Peeples
Taryn Carver
Michael Macarilla
Stephen Cartwright
Khyla Draper
Yamaris Selila
Sabrita Thurman-Newby
Amber Watlington
Dominique Alford
Jeremy Hollenbeck
Sheena Guerrier
Jessica Johnson
Patrick Marshello
Stowe Schiller
Sharonica Thomas
Teresa Duncan
Melinda Berryman
Martine Burnsed
Jennifer Christian-Tague
Rebecca Germain
Jazmin Hodges
Jennifer Lewis
Anet Milian
Dina Mitrani
Deborah Muller
Maryerie Rojas
Elizabeth Seagroves
Kristal Serama
Venkerria Taylor
Emmanuel Cooper
Jasmin Lawson
Doslyn London-Rodrigues
Casey Stepp
Carol Banks
Peter Lawton
Moses Long
Darren Louden

William Eckert
Amanda Mallory
Philip Bennett
Noelle Bertossi
Shanna Cancel
Taina Cruzado-Cote
Kalani Dudek
Sophia Giovenco
Elliot Harris
Matthew Hayes
Stephanie Helton
Erica Littman
Jamese Lucas
Leyla Nedin
Alyssa Ramsey
Ramon Reyes
Eric Schwartz
Kimberly Singleton
Kimberly Smith
Eimear Towler
Tina Wills
Katie Yarbrough
Charles Yingling
Lauren Abremski
Gary Fletcher
Sabrina Schroeder
Matthew Dailey
Deborah Quesinberry
Phylomen Wanjiru
Stacey Getz
Janine Moreno
Na'shara Tyson
Venus Brown
Angela Courtade
Stacy Crayder
Jennifer Franklin

Nicholas Goff
Nancy Jacobs
Mariah Moss
Zachary Stoffers
Bethany Wendel
Jessica Hinds
Louise Bosse
Bernard Bosse
Michelle Fritz
Neal Johnson
Charles Moore
Sampson Onwumere
Brian Puckett
Adriane Wunderlich
Alexis Craig
Alina Klein
Amber Hendrix
Andrea White
Autumn Arbree
Beverly Mejias
Brandon Bustamante
Brittany Georges
Cassie Murphy
Chad Thompson
Courtney Rogers
Heidi Roy
Howard Wright
Idalia Barlow
Kamron Blue
Kasia Flowers
Kathy Miller
Kimberly Herd
Lenea Carnes
Lissette Barzaga
Madison Mancuso
Nicole Whitley

Rosa Contreras
Sara Shaw
Sharon Davis
Stephanie Whiteley
Tanya Berisford
Teresa Moore
Warrenette Kelly
Alyse King
Jennifer Harman
Richard Berry
Craig Graves
Paul Saintil
Melonie Hall
Mary Gould
Mary Missouri
Dawn Sandoe
Vincent Sultenfuss
Brandi German
Jennifer Holt
Kevin Schuster
Rosalind Chan
Lori Keyser
Charles Perkins
Danielle Castro
Shaneese Hernandez
Noel Quiles
William Elders
Dounia Benkabbou
Regis Schafer
Emily Wamback
Theresa Moore

Photo From Wkimediacommons

Lifestyle

How to Pursue the American Dream

By Rafal Matuszczak
Staff Writer

With students from all around the world, Saint Leo University has a very diverse community. It is a home for students from more than 60 different countries. These international students comprise 13 percent of the University Campus undergraduate community, according to saintleo.edu. Even though the international students came to the United States to study, many of them plan to stay in the country for longer than four years spent on trying to receive their undergraduate degree. As the graduation ceremony approaches, the international students have several different options to consider before going back to their home countries.

Even though for many of them the process of transitioning to the United States educational institution might be very challenging itself, it seems that making a choice about what to do after graduation might cause even more trouble as for many it might be a difficult decision whether it is better to continue education or find a job.

There are many paths that the students can take if they wish to stay in the country. Nevertheless, all of them require planning and making decisions relatively quickly as the choice might be a life changing factor.

"Once the students graduate, they have several different options to be able to maintain their status and stay in the country. They have a 60-day window from the day they graduate to be able to determine what they want to do," said Paige Ramsey-Hamacher, an Executive Director for Student Success who works at the Multicultural and International Services at Saint Leo University. "They can apply for OPT, which stands for Optional Practical Training. They can transfer to the next degree program, or they can apply for a different status whether it is H1-B or another kind of visa status, or they can leave the country within the 60 days window."

OPT is an attractive program for the international students as it allows them to gain work experience in their field of study. The program might also help the students to decide whether they want to take further steps toward settling in the U.S.

"Typically students apply for the OPT, which is one year of practical training that they are able to get after each degree level. They would do that application prior to their graduation; 90 days before that day is the earliest they can apply," said Ramsey-Hamacher.

According to dreducation.com, a number of students who enrolled in the OPT program raised by 160 percent between the academic years of 2007/08 and 2015/16. The total number of students who participated in the program in 2015/16 was equal to 147,498 students who comprised to 14 percent of all international students in the whole country.

Even though the OPT program allows the students to stay in the country for 12 months, certain degrees allow for students to stay in the US even longer.

"If students are enrolled in science, technology, engineering or math program they can apply for additional two years of work permission," said Ramsey-Hamacher.

The program that allows them to do that is the STEM extension which was first introduced April 8, 2008, and allowed the students to apply for 17 months of extension to their OPT program, according to dreducation.com. Nevertheless, the program was updated May 10, 2016, and the students are now allowed to extend their OPT program by 24 months.

"The students have to have a training plan from their employer that they have to fill out and submit every six months, as well as the final report at the end of each year. If they are on the STEM extension they can have a total of three years of training on their degree program," said Ramsey-Hamacher.

Photo from @MomentumOx

International students have numerous options to stay in the country, including Optional Practical Training (OPT), which the professionals from Saint Leo University's Multicultural and International Services assist students to apply for.

Photo by John Hall

Saint Leo is the home for students of more than 60 countries, with the number growing from previous years.

Students seeking permanent residency in the U.S. might face more challenges. In order to become permanent residents, they would have to receive a Green Card. According to uscias.gov, "a Green Card holder (permanent resident) is someone who has been granted authorization to live and work in the United States on a permanent basis."

However, obtaining the document is not an easy process, and many variables are taken into account while deliberating whether a person from another country might receive it.

"Green cards are not the easiest things to get. H-1B visa is one of the ways that students could use to move towards the green card. It is a work permission for which the company has to apply for the students, and if approved, they can stay in the country from five to six years. The employer can then apply for permanent residency for their international worker," said Ramsey-Hamacher.

Applying for the permanent residency is different than applying for a STEM extension while being on the OPT program. While the application for the STEM extension might be filled only when the OPT program is close to being finished, the rules for applying for the green card are different.

"If the company is interested in doing that, it does not have to wait the five or six years to apply. If the company wants the worker to stay, they could apply at any point in time for the permanent residency for the worker," said Ramsey-Hamacher.

Other possibilities that would allow an international student to stay in the country do not require paperwork only, and not everybody might be able to use them.

"The other way is of course marriage. Another possibility is through a family member who is a spouse, parent or sibling," said Ramsey-Hamacher.

Many international students might have impatiently waited for the decisions of the administration and new President, Donald Trump, regarding H-1B visas. As the President announced on his official website that his administration would strive for and make steps towards making American citizens privileged on the job marked when compared to international workers, some of them became worried that the H-1B visa program might be ended.

Even though President Trump signed an executive order that was targeted towards the visa program, the H-1B visas have not been removed, and the process of obtaining them did not change significantly.

"Things have not been changed fully. There is much more speculation in place on the H-1B approval and application process. Our question at this point is how much more it would be lasting in regards to approval if the status."

The visa program remains to be an opportunity for the international students who wish to stay in the U.S. even though obtaining the status might not be easy.